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Maj. Tamara Spicer  
Public Affairs Office  
(573) 638-9846  
ngmo.pao@us.army.mil

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## **Air Force Academy grad realizes dream in flying B-2 for Air Guard**

By Rachel Knight  
Ngmo.pao@us.army.mil

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. – For one Minnesota-born Missouri Airman, his view from above has only gotten better as his career as a pilot has progressed.

“I still remember looking up during an Air Force Academy football game, seeing a B-2 do a flyover and thinking that would be something I would never get a chance to do,” Timothy Rezac said. “It just goes to show you what hard work, persistence and a little luck can get you.”

Rezac, who is now a major in the Missouri Air National Guard’s 131st Bomb Wing, flies B-2 Spirit bombers out of Whiteman Air Force Base.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1999, Rezac flew B-1 Lancer strategic bombers with the active-duty Air Force. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2003, where he racked up more than 150 hours of combat time in the aircraft.

While deployed, Rezac interviewed to fly B-2s and was accepted into the program.

“Starting in 2004, I spent five years working my way up from student to aircraft commander to instructor pilot,” Rezac said. “While teaching new students in the B-2 schoolhouse in 2009, I discovered the National Guard had recently moved from Lambert Air National Guard Base in St. Louis and needed more pilots. I had heard and seen the experience and professionalism of the Air National Guard and wanted to be part of the team.”

The open positions for B-2 pilots were part of the classic association between the active-duty 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, near Knob Noster, and the newly relocated 131st Bomb Wing.

“Maj. Rezac is the perfect example of what a Guardsman brings to the fight – a pilot with a wealth of experience and someone who has seen and done it all,” said Lt. Col. Michael Pyburn, commander of the 131st Bomb Wing’s operations group. “We were excited to hire him as part of this initial cadre of B-2 pilots as he brought with him an abundance of knowledge from his previous time in the B-1 and from his time on active duty in the B-2.”

Rezac said the opportunity was too good for him and his Family to pass up. Being with the 131st also has helped him expand his horizons. Rezac is currently the chief of wing plans for the 131st and works hand-in-hand with the active duty’s 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman.

“This has been very fulfilling,” Rezac said. “As a pilot, you don’t get a chance to interact with the rest of the base very often. In this job, I work with wing staff, all of the groups, and most of the squadrons on a daily basis.”

To interact with such a large base community, it was important for the Guard to chose someone with social skills and plenty of knowledge.

“We have utilized Maj. Rezac’s expertise to enable the combat capability of both the 131st and 509th bomb wings,” Pyburn said. “We expect much from our Guard pilots, and Maj. Rezac is the perfect example of why total force integration works at Whiteman. Maj. Rezac leads the group as an instructor pilot for new B-2 pilots, and he is our plans and exercise expert for state emergencies and B-2 specific exercises both conventional and nuclear. He does is all and does it well.”

Being a part of the Guard also has meant becoming more involved in the organization’s state mission.

“Not only do I work with a split wing – some at Lambert and some at Whiteman – but I also coordinate with the Missouri National Guard Headquarters in Jefferson City and other civilian agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agency and the Civil Air Patrol,” Rezac said. “It’s been very rewarding working with so many different agencies and meeting people that work in the community and state.”

While Rezac’s duties ensure he spends a lot of time on the ground, he is still a pilot at heart and said he enjoys the challenges that come with flying one of the Air Force’s premier aircrafts.

“Being a pilot means dealing with a constantly changing environment, and unlike driving a car you can’t just pull over to the side of the road to deal with a situation such as an emergency,” Rezac said. “You always have to be at the top of your game.”

For more information about the Missouri National Guard, please visit [www.moguard.com](http://www.moguard.com) and our social media sites: [www.facebook.com/Missouri.National.Guard](http://www.facebook.com/Missouri.National.Guard); [www.twitter.com/Missouri\\_NG](http://www.twitter.com/Missouri_NG); [www.youtube.com/MoNationalGuard](http://www.youtube.com/MoNationalGuard); [www.myspace.com/missouri\\_ng](http://www.myspace.com/missouri_ng); [www.flickr.com/photos/missouriguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/missouriguard); [www.moguard.com/blog](http://www.moguard.com/blog).

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**For more information about this release, please contact UPAR Rachel Knight at 816-559-4131 or at [rachel.m.knight@us.army.mil](mailto:rachel.m.knight@us.army.mil).**



**Maj. Tim Rezac lives his dream flying the B-2 Spirit Bomber for the Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing. (Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison/Missouri Air National Guard)**